

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02

OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 /098 W

-----023502 122233Z /75

R 121630Z JUL 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9081

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNHCR

SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBER STATES OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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1. UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN
CONVOKED A MEETING JULY 11 OF THE GENEVA PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBERS OF THE UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS IN UNHCR ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN OCTOBER 1976. PRIOR TO MEETING, NOTES ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED
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TO PERMANENT REPS WHICH DESCRIBED SALIENT AREAS OF UNHCR CONCERN OVER PAST TEN MONTHS, BULK OF WHICH ARE KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT AND INTERESTED POSTS. (MISSION AIR POUCHING TO D/HA TO DAY COPIES OF THESE NOTES, IREGISTRY NO. 2616054). IN BRIEF PRESENTATION OF NOTES, SADRUDDIN STATED THAT SOME OF UNHCR'S MOST IMPORTANT WORK LAY AHEAD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED SITUATION DURING COURSE OF RE-

CENTLY COMPLETED LIBREVILLE SESSION OF OAU WITH LEADERS OF AFRICAN STATES CONCERNED. HE URGED DONOR GOVERNMENTS TO COME FORWARD IN RESPONSE TO \$16 MILLION UN APPEAL HE HAD LAUNCHED ON JUNE 8, 1977. OTHER POINTS NOT RECORDED IN NOTES:

A. UNHCR WOULD BE SENDING MISSION VERY SHORTLY TO DJIBOUTI TO INVESTIGATE REPORTED REFUGEE SITUATION THERE.

B. UNHCR IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER SITUATION OF REFUGEES FROM EQUATORIAL GUINEA IN GABON.

C. IT THEREFORE PLANS TO ESTABLISH PRESENCE IN LIBREVILLE "SOON".

2. DWELLING AT SOME LENGTH ON "BOAT PEOPLE", SADRUDDIN DESCRIBED THEM AS "MOST URGENT" CASES AND SAID THERE ARE NOW SOME 5,500 AWAITING RESETTLEMENT. HE URGED THAT A "MORE HUMANE, LESS RIGID" ATTITUDE BE ADOPTED BY COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM. HE DESCRIBED UNHCR EFFORTS TO SETTLE LOCALLY SOME 90,000 FILIPINO REFUGEES LOCATED IN THE SABAH AREA OF MALAYSIA, AND SAID THAT A UNHCR SUB-OFFICE IS BEING ESTABLISHED IN KOTA KINABALU TO COLLABORATE MORE CLOSELY WITH THE SABAH AUTHORITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS.

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3. TO EXERCISE GREATER CONTROL OVER ITS PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA, SADRUDDIN STATED THAT UNHCR PLANNED TO ESTABLISH THREE REGIONAL OFFICES FOR SOUTHERN, NORTH-WESTERN, AND NORTHERN LATIN AMERICA.

4. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WARNED THE PERMANENT REPS THAT THE COST OF UNHCR'S 1977 ANNUAL PROGRAM HAD RISEN FROM \$16.6 MILLION TO \$20.4 MILLION, AND THAT MORE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PROGRAM WERE SORELY NEEDED. HE FURTHER CAUTIONED THAT "A DRASTIC INCREASE" WAS PROBABLE FOR UNHCR'S 1978 PROGRAM.

5. IN BRIEF RESPONSES TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PRESENTATION, THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTRIBUTE 500,000 FRANCS TO THE UNHCR FOR THE BENEFIT OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE; THE DANISH REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCED A CONTRIBUTION OF 4 MILLION DANISH KRONER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES, AND THE DUTCH PERMANENT REP ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONTRIBUTING \$1 MILLION IN RESPONSE TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICA APPEAL.

6. FOR DEPARTMENT: FOLLOWING THE BRIEF SESSION, THE DUTCH CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (VAN DER KLAUW) TOLD MISOFF THAT HE WAS ENDEAVORING TO SET UP OFFICERS FOR NEXT SESSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON LEAVE PRIOR TO END OF MONTH. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED, AND HAD ALREADY SOUNDED OUT, FOLLOWING FOR POSTS INDICATED: FOR CHAIRMAN, JOHAN CAPPELEN OF NORWAY; FOR VICE CHAIRMAN, MILOS LALOVIC OF YUGOSLAVIA; FOR RAPPORTEUR, AKPORDE CLARK OF NIGERIA. MISOFF RESPONDED THAT A PRIORI HE FELT THESE WERE EXCELLENT CHOICES, BUT THAT HE WOULD REPORT THEM TO WASHINGTON AND NOTIFY VAN DER KLAUW WUBSEQUENTLY OF ANY REACTION RECEIVED. LATTER COMMENTED THAT CLARK, WHO SERVED AS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN A YEAR AGO, AHD INITIALLY DEMURRED, BUT LATER AGREED TO SERVE WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT NO OTHER THIRD WORLD CANDIDATE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR RAPPORTEUR POST.

ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM MISSION SOONEST, PARTICULARLY IF ANY OBJECTIONS PERCEIVED TO SUGGESTED CANDIDATES.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

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